

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: OSS Records in the Custody of the National Archives

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.

2. The National Archives has custody of three fragmentary files of OSS archives, originally accepted from SSU, CIO, or CIA between 1946 and 1948. (See Annex A for a summary of these files.)

3. These records are closed to public use, except with the specific permission of CIA, in accordance with restrictions agreed to by the National Archives and CIA. (For summary, see Annex E.) From time to time the National Archives has publicized these records in its published guides and public catalogs. (See Annexes C and D for excerpts.) The restrictions (Annex E), in which OSS and CIA are linked, are also a matter of public knowledge.

4. Needless public curiosity about these records and about CIA's relationship to them is aroused in researchers and students who make inquiries at the National Archives. Motion picture and TV companies, desiring to secure "cooperation" from CIA, which they can advertise and thus make their product Government "official," continuously seek release of these films. Public inquiries could be more easily controlled if the records were returned to CIA custody. Both the National Archives and CIA's Records Management Staff favor such a transfer.

5. It is therefore recommended that the Records Management Staff arrange with the National Archives for the return of these records to CIA.

**SIGNED**

Assistant to the Director

CONCURRENCES:

/s/ Lyman Kirkpatrick  
Inspector General

APR 23 1958  
Date

for Deputy Director (Plans) NOV 7 1958  
Date

/s/ L. K. White  
Deputy Director (Support) Date

NOV 20 1958

\*Concur in Paragraph 5 subject to the understanding that the return of these records will not involve any additional workload on the DD/P and that appropriate controls will be established concerning release.

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Memorandum dated 22 April 1958 to The Director from [REDACTED] Assistant  
to the Director, subject: "OSS Records in the Custody of the National Archives"

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The recommendation in paragraph 3.  
is APPROVED:

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[REDACTED]  
Allen W. Dulles

Dep. Director of Central Intelligence

FOIAb3b

9 December 1958  
Date

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